



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NVE0200)
8/02/2013

Dear Reader:

The Tuscarora Field Office has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the permit renewal process on the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments. The EA follows the Draft Northeastern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Assessment for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments completed in September 2011.

The 2011 Draft Standards and Guidelines Assessment have been incorporated by reference into the EA. In 2011, the BLM issued a Draft Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Assessment for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments. In the Cotant Seeding Allotment Standards 1, 2 and 4 were determined to be met and Standard 3 was determined to be partially met. Livestock grazing was determined to not be a causal factor in non-attainment of Standard 3 in the Cotant Seeding Allotment. All Standards in the Mexican Field Allotment were determined to be met. The assessments summarized monitoring data collected following implementation of the 1994 Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Cotant (and Mexican Field) Allotments. Data collected since 1994 indicate that existing management is favorable and has provided for the attainments of multiple use objectives. The EA analyzes actions that could result in changes to terms and conditions of the permit for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments.

The BLM conducted both internal and external scoping for this EA. External scoping began on September 28, 2011 when BLM issued the updated Draft Standards and Guidelines Assessments for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments. Copies of both documents were mailed to the interested parties list for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments as well as posted to the BLM website at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/grazing.html.

Both documents are still available on the website. Alternatives were developed as a result of internal and external scoping. No additional data, comments and/or alternatives were received during the comments period that ended on October 31, 2011. The livestock permittee did meet with the BLM on November 21, 2011 to discuss grazing management in the future on the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments. Concerns raised by the permittee during that meeting were incorporated into the EA.

Enclosed are the EA and Draft Find of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotment Grazing Permit renewal. The EA along with the draft FONSI will have a review period through August 16, 2013 and will also be posted to the BLM website at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/grazing/cotant_seeding_mexican.html. Following this review period BLM will then issue a Proposed Decision, a signed FONSI and issue the Final Determinations for the Cotant Seeding and Mexican Field Allotments Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Assessment.

Email comments related to this project can be sent to: TuscFO_NEPA@blm.gov. If you have any questions concerning the subject matter please contact Jerrie Bertola, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (775) 753-0261, or by mail at the return address above.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard E. Adams

Richard E. Adams
Field Manager
Tuscarora Field Office

Enclosure: As stated